

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCHAR 04872 300924Z
ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 H-01 INSE-00 SP-02

ORM-02 DHA-02 SSO-00 /024 W

-----005585 300934Z/17

O 290805Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4141

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FOR EUR/EE AND VO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, RO, CSCE, EEW

SUBJ: CLOSING OF EASTERN HEMISPHERE NON-PREFERENCE CATEGORY

REF: BUCHAREST 4478

1. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY REPLY TO REFTEL IN
LIGHT OF FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. WE ARE PRESENTLY IN COURSE OF PREPARING OUR SEMI-
ANNUAL REPRESENTATION LIST WHICH WE NORMALLY GIVE TO
MFA CONSULAR DIRECTORATE IN MID-JULY. BECAUSE OF THE
UNAVAILABILITY OF NON-PREFERENCE NUMBERS, WE FEEL WE
MAY BE FORCED TO DROP THE NON-PREFERENCE CATEGORY FROM
THE REPLIST ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE THIS IS PSYCHOLOGICALLY
A BAD TIME FOR SUCH AN ACTION IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT
MFN HEARINGS ON FREER EMIGRATION FROM ROMANIA AND THE
UPCOMING BELGRADE CONFERENCE.

3. NONETHELESS, WE HESITATE TO PRESS FOR PASSPORT
APPROVALS FOR PERSONS TO WHOM WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ISSUE
VISAS TO UNTIL SOME UNKNOWN DATE IN THE FUTURE.
THE EMBASSY PRESENTLY KNOWS OF 10 PERSONS IN THE
NON :PREFERENE CATEGORY WHO HAVE EITHER RECEIVED
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PASSPORTS OR PASSPORT APPROVAL. IN LIGHT OF PREVIOUS
EXPERIENCE, WE CAN REASONABLY EXPECT THAT WHEN THE
LIST OF 172 APPROVALS REFERRED TO IN BUCHAREST 4739 IS
RECEIVED THAT IT WILL INCLUDE ANOTHER 15-18 PERSONS
IN THE NON-PREFERENCE CATEGORY. (FYI: OF THE 54 PERSONS
INCLUDED IN THE NON-PREFERENCE CATEGORY OF THE 12/76
REPLIST, ONLY 19 HAVE NOT YET BEEN APPROVED. NON-

PREFERENCE APPROVALS SEEM GENERALLY TO COME MORE QUICKLY AND IN GREATER PROPORTION THAN APPROVALS FOR THE QUALIFIED IMMIGRANT AND DUAL NATIONAL CATEGORIES.)

4. THUS IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING WE CAN ALSO REASONABLY

EXPECT THAT, BETWEEN NOW AND OCTOBER FIRST, LEAVING MFA APPROVAL ASIDE, SOME 30-40 PEOPLE IN THE NON-PREFERENCE CATEGORY WILL APPEAR AT THE CONSULAR SECTION, PASSPORTS IN HAND. AS OUTLINED IN BUCHAREST 4478, WE WILL ASK NON-HARDSHIP CASES TO EXTEND EXIT VISAS PAST OCTOBER FIRST WHENEVER POSSIBLE BUT BY OCTOBER WE MAY WELL HAVE ACCUMULATED A BACKLOG OF 60-75 NON-PREFERENCE CASES, POSSIBLY CONSIDERABLY MORE IF GOR SHOULD LEARN OF OUR EMBARRASSING SITUATION AND DECIDE TO PROFIT BY IT BEFORE THE SEPTEMBER BELGRADE CONFERENCE.

5. WE WOULD URGENTLY APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY OF NON-PREFERENCE VISA NUMBERS BETWEEN NOW AND OCTOBER FIRST AS EVEN A FEW NUMBERS COULD BEHUSED TO HELP OUT THE MOST NEEDY CASES. WHILE REALIZING THAT THE VISA OFFICE WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO GIVE A DEFINITIE ANSWER UNTIL MID-SEPTEMBER, WE WOULD ALSO LIKE THE ESTIMATE AS TO WHETHER IT WILL BE NECESSARY

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TO INSTITUTE A CUT-OFF DATE IN THE NON-PREFERENCE CATEGORY DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER AND, IF SO, APPROXIMATELY WHEN THE CUT-OFF DATE WOULD BE. THIS IS IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR THIS POST AS MANY OF OUR NON-PREFERNECE APPLICANTS HAVE REGISTRATION DATES IN LAST SIX MONTHS OF 1976 AND FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1977.

5. CAN DEPARTMENT GIVE US SOME IDEA AS TO PRESENT STATUS OF CONGRESSMAN EILBERG'S BILL REGARDING REFUGEE NUMBERS AND WHAT IMPLICATIONS IT COULD HAVE FOR OUR PRESENT SITUATION IF THE BILL IS PASSED.

6. WE WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL FOR DEPARTMENT'S PROMPT REPLY TO THESE QUESTIONS SO THAT WE WILL HAVE BETTER IDEA RE POSSIBLE PRESENTATION OF NON-PREFERENCE REPLIST TO GOR DURING JULY. REPLY BEFORE AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON JULY 6 WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL SO HE CAN

DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS WITH STAFF.

7. WE HAVE REFRAINED FROM SAYING ANYTHING YET TO GOR OFFICIALS ABOUT NON-PREFERENCE DILEMMA, BUT WORD WILL

LIKELY GET TO THEM SOON IF IT HASN'T ALREADY THROUGH
VISA APPLICANTS. IN THIS CONTEXT, TOO, THE EARLIEST
POSSIBLE REPLY WITH THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF HOPE
WILL BE USEFUL FOR AMBASSADOR'S JULY 5 SCHEDULED
TALK WITH MACOVESCU AND PUNGAN.

BARNES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS
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Decapton Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977069/aaaaahcj.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a699b784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION VO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BUCHAREST 4478
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2272412
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CLOSING OF EASTERN HEMISPHERE NON-PREFERENCE CATEGORY
TAGS: CVIS, EEW, RO, US, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a699b784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009